

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (new): A method of controlling elastic thread laid in knitting by reciprocal movement in a small diameter knitting machine for production of sock goods, comprising: leading an elastic thread (E) to the knitting machine; during an interval after passing of a last knitting needle (1) in one direction of turning of a thread guide (2) and before the last knitting needle (1) reaches a dead point thereof, braking and halting the leading of the elastic thread; during a reverse passing of the last knitting needle (1) around the thread guide (2), braking off the elastic thread; lifting the thread guide (2) for laying the elastic thread into a non-working position; thereafter positively feeding the elastic thread into the thread guide (2) up to a moment of cutting off the elastic thread; cutting off the elastic thread at the moment of cutting off; and catching the cut off elastic thread in a pneumatic nozzle of the knitting machine.

Claim 5 (new): A method according to claim 4, comprising using a computer to control a brake (4) for breaking the elastic thread (E) and for controlling a positive feeder (5) for positively feeding the elastic thread.

Claim 6 (new): A method according to claim 5, including placing the controlled brake (4) of the elastic thread (E) behind the thread guide (2) for laying the elastic thread (E) in front of the positive feeder (5).

Claim 7 (new): A device for controlling elastic thread laid in knitting for reciprocal movement in a small diameter knitting machine for production of sock goods, comprising: means for leading an elastic thread (E) to the knitting machine; a thread guide (2) for guiding the elastic thread; a controlled brake (4) positioned with respect to the thread guide so that during an interval after passing of a last knitting needle (1) of the knitting machine in one direction of turning of the thread guide, and before the last knitting needle (1) reaches a dead position thereof, the controlled brake brakes and halts the leading of the elastic thread; means for braking off the elastic thread during a reverse passing of the last knitting needle (1) around the thread guide (2); means for lifting the thread guide (2) for laying the elastic thread (E) into a non-working position; a positive feeder (5) for positively feeding the elastic thread into the thread guide (2) after lifting of the thread guide and up to a moment of cutting off of the elastic thread; means for cutting off the elastic thread; and means for catching the cut off elastic thread in a pneumatic nozzle of the knitting machine.

Claim 8 (new): A device according to claim 7, including a computer control for controlling the controlled brake (4) and the positive feeder (5).

Claim 9 (new): A device according to claim 8, wherein the controlled brake (4) is behind the thread guide (2) in a laying direction of the elastic thread (E) for laying the elastic thread (E) in front of the positive feeder (5).